

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

✓ 09/814,535

5 A suspension system is provided which includes an arm having a zero clearance axle connection. In a described embodiment, a method is provided for manufacturing the suspension system, which method includes the steps of welding an axle connector to an axle, without first pressing the axle connector onto an end of the axle, and without using a clamp to hold the axle connector in contact with the axle, and welding the axle connector to a pivot arm.